



News Release From . . .

# **Congressman Rodney Alexander**

## **5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Louisiana**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **ALEXANDER ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR NORTH LOUISIANA INFRASTRUCTURE, WATERWAYS**

### **ENERGY AND WATER FUNDING SECURED FOR NEEDED PROJECTS**

*Washington, D.C.* --U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-Quitman, announced today that the following U.S. Army Corps of Engineer projects, which received funding in the Energy and Water Appropriations Conference Report, will **"have an enormous impact on the 5th District's infrastructure."**

**"Projects like Bayou DeSiard and the Ouachita River levees must receive funding to protect residents and businesses in the 5th District,"** Alexander added.

**"I know that there are many residents who are pleased to know that federal funding for local infrastructure and waterway projects is secure."**

Alexander, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, pushed for funding for the following 5th District projects:

#### **Bayou DeSiard, LA (Section 1135)      \$250,000 (Final Conference Report)**

- Bayou DeSiard, Louisiana – Section 1135 Environmental Restoration project is located within Ouachita Parish in northeastern Louisiana near Monroe.
- The Corps completed a feasibility study in 2002, which evaluated several possible alternatives (e.g., channel excavation, spraying of intrusive aquatic plants such as hyacinth and duckweed, and structural features to control water levels in the bayou).
- Currently, the recommended plan consists of a gated structure designed to lower water levels to 67.8 feet, NGVD, no channel excavation, and the spraying of aquatic plants.
- Non-Federal Sponsor - Ouachita Parish Police Jury.
- Ecosystem Restoration Report will be updated and finalized once the Vicksburg District receives allocation of Federal dollars.

#### **Ouachita River Levees      \$750,000 (Final Conference Report)**

- Located in northeast Louisiana.
- The levee system is comprised of three separate levee segments on the west bank at West Monroe, Bawcomville, and Columbia and 105.8 miles of levee on

the east bank from Bastrop to Sandy Bayou. The recommended plan consists of rehabilitation of existing levees and bringing a portion of the levee up to the 1956 project design grade.

- The physically completed Item 2 levee enlargement in the Bastrop to Monroe reach will increase the protection of the Monroe urban area, providing the authorized level of protection.
- \$750,000 used for gravel resurfacing in the Monroe to Sandy Bayou reach will ensure that the levee can be inspected and maintained during critical floods as experienced in FY 2001.

**Bayou Macon, LA (Section 1135)      \$187,000 (Final Conference Report)**

- Bayou Macon, East and West Carroll, and Franklin Parishes, Louisiana – Section 1135 Environmental Restoration project is located in northeast Louisiana within the channel of Bayou Macon.
- Proposed modifications would be located in a 63.7-mile-long segment of Bayou Macon.
- Currently, the recommended plan consists of four rock weirs strategically placed to provide dependable water levels during summer months, which in turn would improve aquatic habitat, thus sustaining fish and wildlife resources in the bayou.
- Non-Federal Sponsor - Tensas Basin Levee District.
- In May 04, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) denied water quality certification. A meeting was held 20 Jan 05, between interested parties, to resolve issue. Although LDEQ did not rescind certification denial, LDEQ did offer to visit the proposed weir locations and continue dialog on the project's status.

**Lake St. Joseph, LA (Section 1135)      \$130,000 (Final Conference Report)**

- Abandoned channel (oxbow) of the Mississippi River located in extreme east-central Louisiana.
- Has experienced low-water levels, impacting the natural habitat of the lake. During summer months, lake is subject to massive fish kills and becomes almost completely dry.
- Feasibility Report will be initiated.
- Non-Federal Sponsor - Tensas Parish Police Jury.
- Cost: Federal - \$2,091.0      Non-Federal - \$694.0

**Bayou Macon, Poverty Point, LA (Section 14)      \$470,000 (Final Conference Report)**

- Located in West Carroll Parish, LA.
- Poverty Point State Commemorative Area is the site of significant earthworks listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is deemed a World Heritage archeological site.

- Study was initiated to provide protective measures for the site. A plan to stabilize the area streambanks has been devised, and surveys are complete.
- Non-Federal Sponsor - Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.
- Planning Design Analysis submitted Sep 05.
- Cost: Federal - \$618.0    Non-Federal - \$311.0

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